

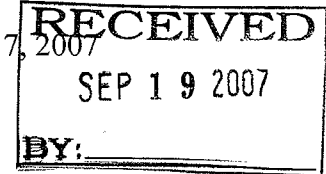


**METROPOLITAN
TRANSPORTATION
COMMISSION**

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L 005

September 17, 2007



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Mr. Mehdi Morshed
Executive Director
California High Speed Rail Authority
925 L Street, Suite 1425
Sacramento, CA 95814-3704

Dear Mehdi:

The Commission has directed me to request that the California High-Speed Rail Authority extend its comment period for the Bay Area to Central Valley HSR DEIR/DEIS by 30-days, changing the close of comment date to October 28, 2007. We believe that this time extension will afford the public and the Commission with additional time to consider the high-speed rail planning analysis and make an informed recommendation about high-speed rail alignment options for the Bay Area.

As you know, MTC's Planning Committee voted unanimously to refer adoption of MTC's Regional Rail Plan to the Commission at its September 26, 2007 meeting. The Regional Rail Plan assesses how proposed CHSRA high-speed rail alignments could be integrated into recommended regional rail improvements as stipulated by Regional Measure 2.

While Regional Measure 2 does not require MTC to endorse HSR or choose a particular high-speed rail alignment in adopting the Regional Rail Plan, the Commission wants to discuss these issues further at its October 2007 meetings; hence their request to extend the HSR DEIR/DEIS comment period to October 28, 2007.

If you or your staff has any questions or comments regarding this request, please contact me or Doug Kimsey, MTC Planning Director, at 510.817.5790.

Sincerely,

Steve Heminger
Executive Director

SH:DK

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